

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 16 are independent.

All of the above amendments merely correct minor typographical errors made in the last reply and to otherwise provide more consistent claim terminology throughout the claims. None of these amendments are substantive or are in any way made to overcome or address any statutory rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3-6 and 8-15 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form. For the reasons discussed below, Applicants believe that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicants further appreciate the courtesies extended to their representative, Michael R. Cammarata, during the interview conducted on September 14, 2005. Although the main reference, Sonoda USP 6,557,171, was primarily the subject of the interview, the Perkins patent was also discussed in detail.

During the interview Examiner Khanh Tran generally admitted that Sonoda and Perkins have certain deficiencies and do not appear to teach the claimed invention. These deficiencies are pointed out below in much the same manner they were pointed out during the interview. Although Examiner Tran did agree that the rejection based on Sonoda is deficient, he also

requested formal arguments be made in the form of a Reply to Office Action before he would withdraw this rejection. Examiner Tran further indicated that depending on the outcome of an update search, another interview will be scheduled to resolve remaining patentability issues. Examiner Tran is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative in this fashion in order to more quickly resolve any remaining issues in this case.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonoda (USP 6,557,171) in view of Perkins (USP 5,859,660). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Sonoda utilizes so-called preselection control information (PCI 401) that permits a user to preselect programs. Specifically, the PCI 401 enables viewers to preselect programs while a promotional program is being broadcast (see column 14, lines 45-50).

The preselection control information of Sonoda is further shown in Fig. 4 and includes static screen element information 402 describing certain presentation data that are displayed on the screen. This presentation data is further shown in Fig. 5 and generally involves certain buttons that may be selected by a user to preselect programs for future viewing.

In Sonoda, the PCI is extracted by the TS decoder unit 122 according to the packet ID (PID) specified in the reception control unit 130 (see column 17, lines 42-45). More specifically, the PCI is incorporated within the program mapping table (PMT). When the reception control unit 130 determines that the PMT includes a PCI, then the reception control unit 130 sends the

PID associated with the PCI to the TS decoder unit 122. Thus, the TS decoder unit 122 extracts the PCI corresponding to this PID. See column 19, lines 54-59 and the flow chart shown in Fig. 20.

By reading out the PCI, the reception control unit 130 of Sonoda interprets the screen element information and generates the preselection information image and sends it to the reproducing unit 124 (see column 19, lines 60-67). Reproducing unit 124 then superimposes this preselection information image on the original image. Clearly, the preselection information image corresponds to Fig. 19C and is designated by reference number 1903. This preselection information image is then superimposed onto the original image to generate the superimposed static image 1904 shown in Fig. 19D. This permits a user to actually select the episode which has already been preselected in the past.

In sharp contrast, the present invention is not concerned with such a preselection and generation of a preselection information image. Instead, the present invention solves a different problem. Namely, conventional digital broadcast receiving systems store a large quantity of information that is necessary for recording/reproduction in a recording/reproducing information table which is then multiplexed with the digital television signal in a predetermined table form. Upon reception of this signal, conventional systems must use complicated hardware and methodology since a large number of information types must be rewritten whenever a program is changed.

To solve these problems, the present invention utilizes an elegant method that greatly simplifies the digital broadcast receiver design and methodology. Specifically, the information table is monitored to detect a content change in the information table. This may be done with a

very simple structure or method and is claimed as the parameter set portion that is configured to detect content change of the information table on the basis of a predetermined criterion.

In response to a detected content change, the parameter set means sets the program parameter that has changed as the signal extraction parameter.

The claims were previously amended to emphasize that the signal extraction portion extracts a program signal on the basis of the signal extraction parameter. The parameter set portion detects a content change in the information table and sets the changed program parameter as the signal extraction parameter. The claims were further amended to emphasize that the program signal extracted on this basis includes a PCR serving as time information. This was done to distinguish over the PCI (program control information) that is extracted by Sonoda. As we have previously argued, the PCI generates a static image such as that shown in Figure 19C of Sonoda and the further definition of the extracted program signal as including a PCR was intended to define over Sonoda's extraction of the PCI.

Moreover, Perkins adds nothing to Sonoda and fails to remedy any of the noted deficiencies in Sonoda. A program signal, in general, is well known to include a PCR. The Office Action appears to be ignoring the fact that the program signal extracted by the claims is not a generalized program signal but is the specific program signal extracted on the basis of the signal extraction parameter and that the signal extraction parameter is set to be the changed program parameter. This interaction between claim terms appears to be a point completely missed by the Office Action.

Moreover, Sonoda's PCI simply does not include a program clock reference serving as time information and, therefore, Sonoda fails to disclose or suggest the claimed signal extraction

portion configured to extract a program signal on the basis of a signal extraction parameter wherein the program signal includes a program clock reference serving as time information as recited in independent claim 1. Likewise, Sonoda fails to disclose or suggest the method of independent claim 16 reciting the step of extracting a program signal from the digital broadcast signal based on the signal extraction parameter wherein the program signal includes a PCR (program clock reference) serving as time information.

Thus, according to the claimed invention, merely by detecting a content change in the information table, the claimed invention may simply and rapidly reset the basis for program signal extraction to be the changed program parameter. Sonoda's pre-selection control information simply does not disclose or suggest any such inventive system or method, particularly as recited in the amended claims. The static image generated by the program control information (PCI) does not equate to and does not suggest the extracted program signal extracted on the basis of the signal extraction parameter, particularly when the extracted program signal includes a PCR serving as time information.

Since neither Sonoda nor Perkins teaches or suggests several features of the independent claims 1 and 16 as argued above in detail, the combination of Sonoda and Perkins also fails to disclose or suggest these features. Moreover, motivation for combining the disparate teachings of Sonoda and Perkins is completely lacking. Indeed, it appears that impermissible hindsight reconstruction is being utilized to piece together the different teachings of Perkins and Sonoda to arrive at the claimed invention. Such hindsight reconstruction is impermissible.

For all the above reasons, taken alone or in combination, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 Sonoda-Perkins rejection.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael R. Cammarata (Reg. No. 39,491) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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